

NOTES ON THE GENUS *NERTHRA*, INCLUDING THE  
DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES

(HEMIPTERA: GELASTOCORIDAE)

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ABSTRACT—Distribution records are given for *Nerthra* Say in Central and North America, and *Nerthra spangleri*, n. sp. is described from Western Mexico. The following new locality records are established: *Nerthra mami* Todd, Arizona; *Nerthra martini* Todd, Sonora, Mexico; *Nerthra hungerfordi* Todd, Chiapas, Mexico.

In this paper, distributional records are given for various species of *Nerthra* Say collected in the Western United States, Mexico and Central America. *Nerthra spangleri*, n. sp. is described from the West Coast of Mexico, where it is apparently restricted to a narrow area along the coast.

Upon correlating this work with Dr. E. L. Todd, I discovered that he too was planning to publish on *Nerthra spangleri*, n. sp. He has generously turned over to me the responsibility of describing this species, and arranged for the loan of specimens under his care at the U.S. National Museum (USNM).

Part of the material reported here was collected during an expedition financed in part by the University of Colorado Museum (CU); the remainder of the material is from the Polhemus collection (JTP).

*Nerthra spangleri*, n. sp.

*Size*.—Male: Length, 5.8 to 6.9 mm; width of pronotum, 3.5 to 4.1 mm; width of abdomen, 3.5 to 4.0 mm. Female: Length, 6.2 to 7.5 mm; width of pronotum, 3.8 to 4.6 mm; width of abdomen, 4.0 to 5.1 mm. (All specimens available were measured.)

*Color*.—Light brown to dark blackish brown; some light colored specimens with a distinct dark brown longitudinal stripe as wide as the scutellum starting at the anterior margin of the pronotum and extending to the apex of the membrane, lateral hemelytral margins dark also; posterior margins of the segments of the connexivum pale yellowish brown; disc of pronotum pale to dark brown, often mottled; posterior margins of hemelytra and pronotum usually mottled; ventral surface mottled even in darkest specimens; legs pale brown, annulated with deep brown.

*Structural Characteristics*.—Apex of head slightly concavely excavated, a broad tubercle on either side of the excavation; one weak lateral tubercle on each side; a slight excavation between each eye and lateral tubercle; ocelli present. Pronotum widest at the level of the transverse furrow, usually less than width of abdomen but in some males slightly wider; lateral margins with median part weakly concave, rarely straight, converging evenly along anterior third, postero-lateral angles rounded. Scutellum wider than long (5:3), about two thirds the width of prono-

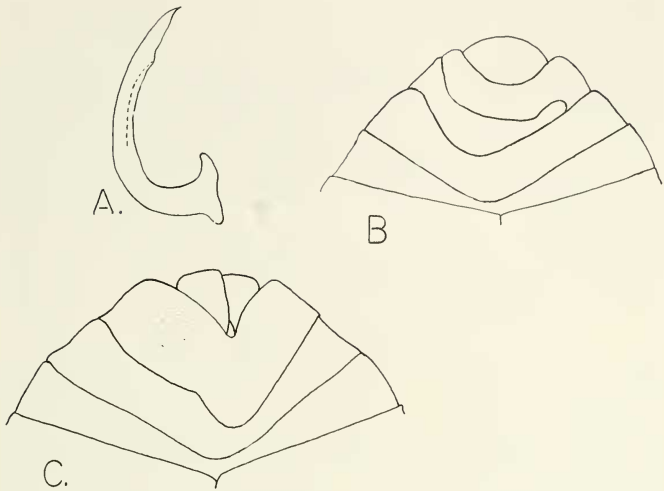


Fig. 1. *Nerthra spangleri*, n. sp.: A, right clasper, ♂ genitalia; B, abdominal sternites, ♂; C, abdominal sternites, ♀.

tum (5:8); depressed at basal angles; with small tumescence at apex. Hemelytra extending beyond the end of the abdomen in normal specimens; lateral margin of embolium usually faintly sinuate, weakly convex on basal third. Connexivum thinly to broadly exposed in females, barely to broadly exposed in males. Abdominal sternites 6-8 of female unsymmetrical, segment 7 with a lateral tumescence on left side and an irregular transverse depression extending across the sternite medially; shape of sternites and ovipositor lobes shown in fig. 1 C. Abdominal sternites of male as shown in fig. 1 B; clasper of male without processes (fig. 1 A).

*Material examined.*—Holotype male (USNM 71445) and allotype female, Mexico, Sinaloa, Mazatlan, VII-17-23-1963, P. J. Spangler, in U.S. National Museum.

Paratypes: *Mexico*: Same data as holotype above, 7 ♂♂, 17 ♀♀, 1 nymph (USNM); Sinaloa, Mazatlan, CL1021, IV-21-1964, J. T. & M. S. Polhemus, 9 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀, 3 nymphs (CU); Sinaloa, Mazatlan, CL1208, V-31-1966, J. T. Polhemus, 11 ♂♂, 8 ♀♀, 3 nymphs (JTP); Sonora, no date or collector, P. R. Uhler collection, 1 ♂ (USNM); Colima, Santiago, CL1227, XI-25-1968, J. T. Polhemus, 2 ♂♂ (JTP).

Two paratypes will be deposited in the collections of the Snow Entomological Museum at Lawrence, Kansas and two in the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; other paratypes will be found

in the collections of the University of Colorado, U.S. National Museum and J. T. Polhemus.

*Comparative notes.*—*Nerthra spangleri* n. sp. is most closely related to *N. parvula* (Signoret) from Chile, and the Sonora specimen was included under this species in Todd's monograph. In *parvula* the apex of the head is weakly produced, and there is no tumescence on the last female sternite; in *spangleri*, the apex of the head is concave with two superapical tubercles, there is a strong tumescence on the left side of the last female sternite, the female sternites are differently shaped and the last abdominal segment of the male is larger than in *parvula*.

This species is named in honor of Dr. Paul J. Spangler who collected a series of these bugs at the request of Dr. Todd.

#### ***Nerthra hungerfordi* Todd**

*Nerthra hungerfordi* Todd, 1955, Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull. 37, pt. 1(11):398 (Costa Rica).

This species is listed by Todd (1955, 1961) as occurring from Guatemala to Panama, but this is the first record for Mexico.

*Material examined.*—*Mexico*: Chiapas, Puente la Flor, CL1247, XII-19-1969, J. T. Polhemus, 25 ♂♂, 21 ♀♀ (JTP).

#### ***Nerthra manni* Todd**

*Nerthra manni* Todd, 1955, Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull. 37, pt. 1(11):396 (Guerrero, Mex.).

Todd (1955) noted that *N. manni* had been found in the crop of a chicken at Nogales, Arizona on the Mexican border. He speculated that it might be found in Arizona, but the record below is the first definite record for the U.S.

*Material examined.*—*Arizona*: Patagonia, CL1200, V-27-1966, J. T. Polhemus, 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀. *Mexico*: Jalisco, 15 mi. S. Ixtlan del Rio, CL1029, 22 April 1964, J. T. & M. S. Polhemus, 7 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀ (CU); Sinaloa, Mazatlan, C11205, V-31-1966, J. T. Polhemus, 1 ♂ (JTP).

#### ***Nerthra martini* Todd**

*Nerthra martini* Todd, 1954. Pan-Pac. Ent. 30(2):113, figs. 1, 5 (California).

Todd (1955) in his monograph on Gelastocoridae listed two indefinite Arizona records for this species; the record below seems to be the first definite one for the state. While records exist (Todd, 1954) for the species in Baja California, the Sonoran locality given here is the first for the Mexican mainland east of the Gulf of Lower California. The Nevada record is also apparently new, and I am indebted to Dr.

Chapman for this material. The record of *Nerthra fuscipes* G.-M. from Nevada by La Rivers (1953) probably pertains to this species.

*Material examined*.—*Arizona*: Patagonia CL1200, V-27-1966, J. T. Polhemus, 1 ♂, (JTP). *California*: E. of Fresno, Wonder Canyon, IV-28-1962, J. T. Polhemus, many specimens; China Ranch, Tecopa, C1302, X-5-1964, J. T. Polhemus, 1 ♂, 1 nymph (JTP); Death Valley, Saratoga Springs, CL303, X-5-1964, J. T. Polhemus, 2 ♀♀, 1 nymph (JTP). *Nevada*: Ash Meadows, VI-24-1959, H. C. Chapman, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (JTP). *Mexico*: Sonora, Santa Ana, CL1201, V-28-1966, J. T. Polhemus, 1 ♀ (JTP).

#### *Nerthra mexicana* (Melin)

*Mononyx mexicanus* Melin, 1929. Zool. Bidrag Fran Uppsala 12:187, figs. 80-3 (Mexico).

*Material examined*.—*Mexico*: Chiapas, Puente la Flor, CL1247, XII-19-1969, J. T. Polhemus, 1 ♀ (JTP); Chiapas, Rio Sesecapa, CL1248, XII-19-1969, J. T. Polhemus, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (JTP); Oaxaca, Tequisistlan, CL1066, IV-30-1964, J. T. & M. S. Polhemus, 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, 3 nymphs (CU); Veracruz, Rio Paso de Ovejas, CL513, I-6-1971, J. T. & M. S. Polhemus, 1 ♀, (JTP).

#### *Nerthra fuscipes* (Guerin-Meneville)

*Mononyx fuscipes* Guerin-Meneville 1843. Rev. Zool. Travaux Ined. 6:114 (Colombia).

This species is by far the most abundant one occurring in Eastern and Southern Mexico and Central America, judging from Todd's records (1955) and my collecting.

*Material examined*.—*Mexico*: Oaxaca, 29 mi. W. of Tequisistlan, CL1064, IV-30-1964, J. T. & M. S. Polhemus, 18 ♂♂, 12 ♀♀ (CU); Veracruz, 16 mi. S. La Tinaja, C1505, I-4-1971, J. T. & M. S. Polhemus, 1 ♀ (JTP); Veracruz, Conejos, C1514, I-6-1971, J. T. & M. S. Polhemus, 18 ♂♂, 21 ♀♀ (JTP). *Nicaragua*: N. of Esteli, C11262, XII-23-1969, 3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ (JTP).

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